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The City Council Contests

One week from next Tuesday, September 8 to be exact, qualified voters of Tampa, nearly 100,000 strong, will have an opportunity to cast their ballot for aspirants for the City Council in addition to the candidates for Mayor, City Clerk, the second Municipal Court judgeship and five seats on the Board of Elections.

Some City Council candidates are complaining that comparatively little notice is being taken of their races, that most public attention is riveted on the campaign for Mayor, which is steadily generating more sound and heat. Some of them are inclined to blame citizens generally, calling them apathetic.

Part of this criticism has merit. The contests for City Council posts are of great importance to the voters of Tampa. They should, as citizens, be vitally interested in seeing that the positions are filled by the best possible men.

But the candidates err if they do not include themselves in their criticism. After all, they have not done a great deal to stir up interest. Few issues have been probed very deeply so far by the 30 candidates for the seven Council positions.

There are many grave problems confronting the city in the immediate future and over the next four years. One of the most important is the question of finances.

Where does Tampa look for money to finance additional capital improvements, for example, when funds in the present \$20,000,000 bond issue are exhausted?

None of the candidates has advanced a comprehensive proposal as to how to meet this problem. Many have talked about "eliminating waste," studying budgets carefully and recommending surveys handled by "experts."

Other issues likewise have been evaded by many of the aspirants. There has been little detailed discussion as to how to handle flood control, sewer, street, traffic, Negro hospital and other problems. A "sound, businesslike gov-

ernment" and "more harmony and dignity" on the City Council have been the main talking points of the candidates. The latter point has been particularly stressed, and with much justification.

This evasion of the issues throws an added responsibility upon the voters. When the issues are clearly stated and clean-cut, with one candidate taking one side and another the other, the voter doesn't have much trouble in making up his mind.

But when only generalities are talked, then the voter must carefully consider the character, background and capabilities of the individual candidates.

That is easier said than done, of course. And for proof of that, consider the situation surrounding those running in the District 1 and 2 contests.

There are six candidates for the District 1 seat and five men seek the District 2 post. Most of the aspirants are businessmen. In one way or another, all have shown interest in civic affairs.

The Times, in analyzing the candidates in both these races, has found weak as well as strong points in their records and qualifications. We consider a number of the men to be of near or equal ability. We regard them as thoughtful and responsible citizens.

We are frank to say, however, that in neither race has the picture become sufficiently clear. We do not find one candidate in the District 1 and 2 races standing head and shoulders above his opponents. We are not prepared to make recommendations to the voters in these two contests.

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The situation is quite different in the District 3 race. In our judgment, the candidate who offers the greatest promise is George A. Hochschwender.

Mr. Hochschwender received his higher education at Princeton University, graduating with a degree in political science. He specialized in public administration and local government. Following military service, he became manager of a large new car agency, and later served two years in the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D. C. He has taken a most active part in civic, charitable and industrial affairs since moving to Tampa and building up a thriving business as a retail tractor dealer.



HOCHSCHWENDER

We firmly believe George Hochschwender has the energy, vision, experience and independence to give Tampa the type of representation it needs on the City Council. We strongly urge his support.